

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

part of Cloverfields

AND/OR COMMON

John Benton Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

approx. 1 3/4 miles northeast of Stevensville

CITY, TOWN

Stevensville

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

John C. Benton

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Stevensville

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21666

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: WHC 6

Folio #: 17

Wills#: WTB 3

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

Folio#: 468

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-298E

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE ?
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Nineteenth Century Granary:

Moved in the 1920's from a location to the northeast of the main house, this granary now forms the south side of the barnyard "courtyard". Resting on brick piers, the main building is a large frame structure with a gable roof, flanked by large implement sheds with less steeply pitched roofs. Similar in overall appearance to the smaller and earlier building that adjoins it (QA-298 D), this structure was evidently constructed as a granary in the nineteenth century, with the roof overshot on each side, accommodating a crib on the west side, and an open storage area on the east.

The method of construction is standard heavy timber frame, in contrast to the two post and plank buildings located elsewhere on the farm. Though carefully constructed and well preserved, the principal feature worthy of interest is the overall form which the original building took. Combining granaries and cribs under the same roof seems to have been a reasonably common practice, but few pre-Civil War examples remain. This particular example has been altered, but the framing evidence

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

remains to reconstruct the size and form of the crib, and the absence of any supporting plate or wall structure under the east overhang makes it clear that this was left open, either as a storage area for equipment or produce, or perhaps as a protected browsing area for livestock.

Also of interest is the first floor door to the granary. Evidently reused from an earlier building, this batten door is constructed of random-width beaded boards on the exterior face, secured to diagonal beaded boards on the inner face with large hand-wrought nails. The nails have been driven in a regular order, and form a decorative pattern on the exterior face of the door. The door is hung on very large wrought iron strap hinges. Although batten doors are plentiful on both domestic and agricultural buildings throughout the county, decorative nailing patterns rarely appear, and it is interesting that two examples, one using wrought nails, the other machine nails, may be found on this farm.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The granary on the John Benton farm is an exceptionally fine example of a heavy timber frame farm building with flanking appendages, a form that was evidently once a common sight in Queen Anne's County. Unfortunately, few examples pre-dating the lightweight construction methods of the industrial age have survived. This building is unusual in that the central granary was originally flanked on one side by an enclosed crib, but on the other side the roof was cantilevered out, creating a sheltered area used either for storage or for animals to browse. This area was later closed in with frame walls and is now used for storage, while the crib has been converted into an equipment shed, but the original form is still clearly evident. One detail of note is the beaded batten door to the granary, which is embellished with clinched wrought nails set in a decorative pattern.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

6/29/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

